

Pest Update (March 21-28, 2012)

Vol. 10, no. 6

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Note: samples containing living tissue may only be accepted from South Dakota. Please do not send samples of dying plants or insects from other states. If you live outside of South Dakota and have a question, instead please send a digital picture of the pest or problem. **Walnut samples may not be sent in from any location – please provide a picture!**

Available on the net at:

<http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/Educational-Information/PestAlert-Archives.aspx>

Any treatment recommendations, including those identifying specific pesticides, are for the convenience of the reader. Pesticides mentioned in this publication are generally those that are most commonly available to the public in South Dakota and the inclusion of a product shall not be taken as an endorsement or the exclusion a criticism regarding effectiveness. Please read and follow all label instructions and the label is the final authority for a product's use on a particular pest or plant. Products requiring a commercial pesticide license are occasionally mentioned if there are limited options available. These products will be identified as such but it is the reader's responsibility to determine if they can legally apply any product identified in this publication.

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Plant development



We are way ahead of plant development this year with the warm late winter and spring. Last year the forsythias did not bloom till the end of April in Brookings, this year they bloomed about a week ago! The corneliancherries (*Cornus mas*) were in full bloom this week in Brookings, about a month ahead of last year. I also receive this picture from Clark County of a pear in bloom!

This means that we have to move up the chock on a number of gardening tasks, and yes, expect to start spraying a little earlier. I have noted some of the activities you might need to being now

Current tasks to complete

Anthracnose and cane blight on raspberries can be controlled by applying lime sulfur now if you have not done so already. Remember to apply it *before* the buds break, not after as lime sulfur can be damaging to foliage. In addition to apply lime sulfur it would be a good idea to rake out any of the fallen leaves and prune out and destroy any infected canes.

Apple scab control start with a spray applied just as the buds are beginning to expand, less than a 1/4-inch of leaf showing. We are at the silver tip stage now in the southern half of the state so bud break will be occurring very soon. The first two apple scab fungicide treatments are critical to the successful control of this disease and if missed will significantly reduce effective control of the diseases even if the remaining sprays are properly timed. After the first spray, fungicide sprays are continued about every 7 to 10 days apart until after petal fall, after that the weather usually turns a little drier and a 10-14 day interval can be used until the end of June when applications generally stop. The most common fungicides used for control of apple scab have Captan or copper listed as the active ingredient. Captan is also the most common fungicide included in multi-purpose fruit tree sprays.



Pruning trees should be completed by now. Generally you want to avoid pruning trees while the buds are expanding and the leaves are opening. We are also at the end of the time period for pruning live branches from elms and oaks

as fresh pruning wounds can attract the insects that carry Dutch elm disease and oak wilt.

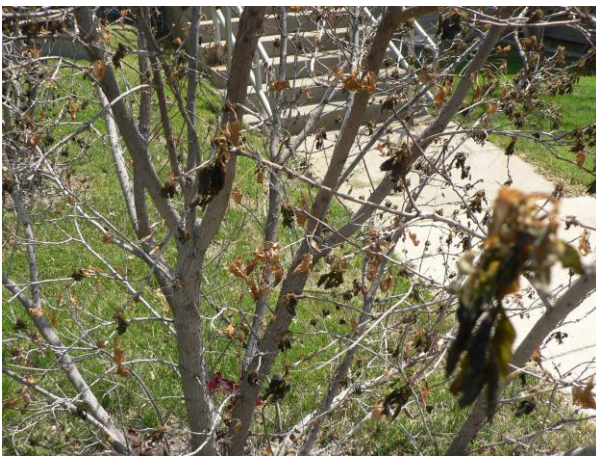
Remove tree wrap from tree trunks. These are no longer needed and they serve as egg-laying cover for ash borers and other insects.

Spruce needleminer larvae will begin moving to form their webbed nest and resume their feeding. A spray of high-pressure water will knock them off the tree and you can rake up the fallen needles (and larvae) after the spray. The other approach is spraying an insecticide with the active ingredient of either acephate or carbaryl to kill the larvae as they begin moving out onto the foliage. Remember to spray inside the canopy, not just the exterior.

Tent caterpillars can be treated right now by pruning out the egg masses (though see note below in E-samples). Tent caterpillars, eastern, forest and western, are common defoliators of mountainash, cherry, crabapples and plums. If you look at these trees right now you might find these globs of what appears to be molten glass around the twigs. These are the egg mass to the tent caterpillar (see picture). If these egg masses are pruned off and destroyed (don't just throw them on the ground, unless the mice eat them, the eggs will still hatch) you'll save the tree from defoliation. The new egg masses do look like molten glass, very smooth and shiny. If instead, the egg masses are a gray to white and have lots of holes in them, they are last year's egg masses and not a threat to your tree.



Current Concerns



What happens if it freezes now?

Well, our woody plants will be in trouble is the short answer. Many plants are already leaving out and this tender tissue is vulnerable to freeze injury. If we have a cold snap (occurred in 2007 as seen in the picture), expect to see a lot of wilted foliage. The plants will recover and set out new leaves but this will leave them stressed. We can also expect a poor fruit crop if a frost occurs now as many of the flower buds are

opening, or opened, and cannot tolerate the cold.

E-sample



Peeling bark? I also received this interesting picture from Dave Hettick, a forester with the SD Department of Agriculture, of a pine tree in Hot Springs. The outer bark is coming off to reveal a lighter and brighter color beneath. This is still bark so the tree did not lose its bark, the older bark merely peeled off. This is a normal process on pines but usually not this dramatic, more often occurs a little at a time. However, every now and then, we get this phenomena occurring in late winter on a large number of trees.



I also receive a picture of a dying (actually dead) silver maple in a shelterbelt. Nathan Kafer passed this one along and the reason for the decline and death of the tree was the soil depth. A common symptom associated with the trunk flare being buried is a proliferation of suckers occurring around the base of the tree. The problem commonly occurs when either 1) the tree is set too deep at planting (the upper most roots should

be just beneath the soil) or 2) cultivation – which appears to be the cause in this instance – pushes soil up around the trunk over time.



Tent caterpillars are already out in the southern half of the state. I got this picture from Shelly in Huron of a nest already appearing on her apple tree. Nathan Kafer, a forester from the SD Department of Agriculture reports tent caterpillar nests appearing on trees south of Mitchell. The insects have not really left the nests yet so pruning off the twig is still a means of eliminating them. If you just tear the nest that will also destroy the caterpillar's shelter and leave them more vulnerable to the elements and predators.

Samples received

Davison County

We have some dead pines and noticed these insects in them. Did the insect kill the trees or the excessive water last year?

Most likely the water was the stress that killed the pines. Pines will not tolerate flooding or even wet soils for more than several weeks to a month. Pines were one of the trees that suffered large losses due to last year's flooding and even the wet soils that occurred in much of the state last spring. The borer is a sawyer beetle larvae and this insect typically attacks dead and dying trees so it was merely finishing off the trees.

Lake County FL1200001

What is causing the spruce to loss its needles?

The only pests found on the sample were several spruce bud scales. This is a small sucking insect that can become a problem on young spruce trees. However, the branch submitted as a sample also showed reduced shoot growth for the past several years and this is not likely due to the scale. I suspect there is a soil-root related problem here and I cannot tell for sure without seeing the tree. I will schedule a stop.